There was, therefore, no question of causing any harassment to him. The inquiry made into the matter by Delhi police also indicates that there is *prima facie* no substance in the allegation that Shri Jal Singh committed suicide on 21.05.2000 because he was harassed by the CBI.

Proposal to Amend Art. 355

1169. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are considering actively an amendment to Art. 355 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) whether viewpoints of the major political parties in the country and various State Governments would be elicited before going in for the amendment if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Article 355 is a precursor of Article 356. Both these Articles have been a subject matter of discussion in the meetings of the Standing Committee and Inter State Council. In the Sixth meeting of the Standing Committee held on December 19, 1998, the subject was remitted to a Sub-Committee consisting of Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Finance Minister of West Bengal under the convenorship of Union Defence Minister. The matter was also discussed in the Fifth meeting of the Inter State council held on 22nd January, 1999, in which it was decided that the Sub-Committee under the convenorship of the Union Defence Minister should continue deliberations to evolve a consensus.

In the sixth meeting of the Inter State Council held on 20.05.2000, the sub-Committee set up as above has been reconstituted by the Prime Minister and comprises of Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Finance Minister of West Bengal under the convenorship of Union Defence Minister.

The matter is to be considered further by the Sub-Committee and thereafter by the Standing Committee/Inter State Council.